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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR/Mediterranean

DATE DISTR. 24 Sept. 1951

SUBJECT Arming of Soviet Merchant Ships

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF
INFO.SUPPLEMENT
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Soviet merchant ships in the Mediterranean have gun platforms on either side of the captain's bridge. These platforms are for two anti-aircraft machine guns, which are stored in the captain's cabin.
2. Each vessel also carries four anti-aircraft balloons for emergency use.
3. A safe 50 x 40 x 40 cm in size is located in the captain's cabin. Several holes are in one side of the safe to assure destruction of the contents if the safe is thrown overboard. Confidential papers and codes for communication with Soviet bases are kept in the safe "in accordance with a Sevastopol Naval Base order dated 10 June 1951."

Comment: A Sevastopol Naval Base order on the arming of Soviet merchant ships, effective 4 July 1951, was reported. Its provisions were not, however, identical with those listed above, some of which appear a trifle unusual.

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